

CHAPTER 5
PUBLIC RECORDS AND FAIR INFORMATION PRACTICES

[Prior to 8/18/93, Product Development Corporation, Iowa[636] Ch 5]
[Prior to 4/9/97, Product Development Corporation, Iowa[271] Ch 5]

The Iowa seed capital corporation hereby adopts, with the following exceptions and amendments, rules of the Governor's Task Force on Uniform Rules of Agency Procedure relating to public records and fair information practices which are printed in the first Volume of the Iowa Administrative Code.

727—5.1(17A,22) Definitions. As used in this chapter:

“Agency.” In lieu of the words “(official or body issuing these rules)”, insert “Iowa seed capital corporation”.

727—5.3(17A,22) Requests for access to records.

5.3(1) Location of record. In lieu of the words “(insert agency head)”, insert “president of the corporation”. In lieu of the words “(insert agency name and address)”, insert “Iowa Seed Capital Corporation, 200 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1827; (515)242-4860”.

5.3(2) Office hours. In lieu of the words “(insert customary office hours and, if agency does not have customary office hours of at least thirty hours per week, insert hours specified in Iowa Code section 22.4)”, insert “8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays”.

5.3(7) Fees.

c. Supervisory fee. In lieu of the words “(specify time period)”, insert “one hour”.

727—5.6(17A,22) Procedure by which additions, dissents, or objections may be entered into certain records. In lieu of the words “(designate office)”, insert “Iowa seed capital corporation”.

727—5.9(17A,22) Disclosures without the consent of the subject.

5.9(1) Open records are routinely disclosed without the consent of the subject.

5.9(2) To the extent allowed by law, disclosure of confidential records may occur without the consent of the subject. Following are instances where disclosure, if lawful, will generally occur without notice to the subject:

- a. For a routine use as defined in rule 5.10(17A,22) or in the notice for a particular record system.
- b. To a recipient who has provided the agency with advance written assurance that the record shall be used solely as a statistical research or reporting record, provided that the record is transferred in a form that does not identify the subject.
- c. To another government agency or to an instrumentality of any governmental jurisdiction within or under the control of the United States for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity if the activity is authorized by law, and if an authorized representative of such government agency or instrumentality has submitted a written request to the agency specifying the record desired and the law enforcement activity for which the record is sought.
- d. To an individual pursuant to a showing of compelling circumstances affecting the health or safety of any individual if a notice of the disclosure is transmitted to the last-known address of the subject.
- e. To the legislative fiscal bureau under Iowa Code section 2.52.
- f. Disclosures in the course of employee disciplinary proceedings.
- g. In response to a court order or subpoena.

727—5.10(17A,22) Routine use.

5.10(1) Defined. “Routine use” means the disclosure of a record without the consent of the subject or subjects, for a purpose which is compatible with the purpose for which the record was collected. It includes disclosures required to be made by statute other than the public records law, Iowa Code chapter 22.

5.10(2) To the extent allowed by law, the following uses are considered routine uses of all agency records:

a. Disclosure to those officers, employees, and agents of the agency who have a need for the record in the performance of their duties. The custodian of the record may, upon request of any officer or employee, or on the custodian’s own initiative, determine what constitutes legitimate need to use confidential records.

b. Disclosure of information indicating an apparent violation of the law to appropriate law enforcement authorities for investigation and possible criminal prosecution, civil court action, or regulatory order.

c. Disclosure to the department of inspections and appeals for matters in which it is performing services or functions on behalf of the agency.

d. Transfers of information within the agency, to other state agencies, or to local units of government, as appropriate to administer the program for which the information is collected.

e. Information released to staff of federal and state entities for audit purposes or for purposes of determining whether the agency is operating a program lawfully.

f. Any disclosure specifically authorized by statute under which the record was collected or maintained.

727—5.11(17A,22) Consensual disclosure of confidential records.

5.11(1) *Consent to disclosure by a subject individual.* The subject may consent in writing to agency disclosure of confidential records as provided in rule 5.7(17A,22).

5.11(2) *Complaints to public officials.* A letter from a subject of a confidential record to a public official which seeks the official’s intervention on behalf of the subject in a matter that involves the agency may be treated as an authorization to release sufficient information about the subject to the official to resolve the matter.

727—5.12(17A,22) Release to subject.

5.12(1) The subject of a confidential record may file a written request to review confidential records about that person as provided in rule 5.7(17A,22). However, the agency need not release the following records to the subject:

a. The identity of a person providing information to the agency need not be disclosed directly or indirectly to the subject of the information when the information is authorized to be held confidential pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7(18).

b. Records need not be disclosed to the subject when they are the work product of an attorney or are otherwise privileged.

c. Peace officers’ investigative reports may be withheld from the subject, except as required by the Iowa Code. (See Iowa Code section 22.7(5).)

d. As otherwise authorized by law.

5.12(2) Where a record has multiple subjects with interest in the confidentiality of the record, the agency may take reasonable steps to protect confidential information relating to another subject.

727—5.13(17A,22) Availability of records.

5.13(1) *Open records.* Agency records are open for public inspection and copying unless otherwise provided by rule or law.

5.13(2) *Confidential records.* The following records may be withheld from public inspection. Records are listed by category, according to the legal basis for withholding them from public inspection.

- a. Sealed bids received prior to the time set for public opening of bids. (Iowa Code section 73.2)
- b. Tax records made available to the agency. (Iowa Code sections 422.20 and 422.72)
- c. Records which are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7.
- d. Minutes of closed meetings of a government body as permitted under Iowa Code section 21.5(4).

e. Identifying details in final orders, decisions and opinions to the extent required to prevent a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy or trade secrets under Iowa Code section 17A.3(1)“d.”

f. Those portions of agency staff manuals, instructions or other statements issued which set forth criteria or guidelines to be used by agency staff in auditing, in making inspections, in settling commercial disputes or negotiating commercial arrangements, or in the selection or handling of cases, such as operational tactics on allowable tolerances or criteria for the defense, prosecution or settlement of cases, when disclosure of those statements would:

- (1) Enable law violators to avoid detection;
- (2) Facilitate disregard of requirements imposed by law; or
- (3) Give a clearly improper advantage to persons who are in an adverse position to the agency.

(Iowa Code sections 17A.2 and 17A.3)

g. Records which constitute attorney work product, attorney-client communications, or which are otherwise privileged. Attorney work product is confidential under Iowa Code sections 22.7(4), 622.10 and 622.11, Iowa R.C.P. 122(c), Fed. R. Civ.P.26(b)(3), and case law. Attorney-client communications are confidential under Iowa Code sections 622.10 and 622.11, the rules of evidence, the Code of Professional Responsibility, and case law.

h. Any other records considered confidential by law.

5.13(3) *Authority to release confidential records.* The agency may have discretion to disclose some confidential records which are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 22.7 or other law. Any person may request permission to inspect records withheld from inspection under a statute which authorizes limited or discretionary disclosure as provided in rule 5.5(17A,22). If the agency determines that it shall release such records, the agency may, where appropriate, notify interested parties and withhold the records from inspection as provided in subrule 5.4(3).

727—5.14(17A,22) Personally identifiable information. This rule describes the nature and extent of personally identifiable information that is collected, maintained, and retrieved by the agency by personal identifier in record systems as defined in rule 5.1(17A,22). The agency does not currently have a data processing system which matches, collates, or permits the comparison of personally identifiable information in one record system with personally identifiable information in another record system. The agency does not maintain records containing personally identifiable information.

727—5.15(17A,22) Other groups of records. This rule describes groups of records maintained by the agency other than record systems defined in rule 5.1(17A,22). These records are routinely available to the public. However, the agency's files of these records may contain confidential information as discussed in rule 5.12(17A,22). The records listed may contain confidential information as discussed in rule 5.13(17A,22). The records listed may contain information about individuals. Unless otherwise stated, the authority for the agency to maintain the record is provided in Iowa Code sections 15E.81 to 15E.94. All records are stored on paper and not stored in an automated data processing system unless otherwise noted.

5.15(1) Rule-making records. Rule-making records may contain information about individuals making written or oral comments on proposed rules. This information is collected pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.4. Public documents generated during the promulgation of agency rules, including notices and public comments, are available for public inspection.

5.15(2) Iowa seed capital corporation records. Agendas, minutes, and materials presented to the agency are available from the agency, except confidential records. Those records concerning closed sessions are exempt from disclosure under Iowa Code section 21.5(4). Agency records contain information about people who participate in meetings. This information is collected pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.3.

5.15(3) Reports. The agency prepares an annual report concerning its programs and activities which is issued to the governor and the legislature, and is available to other interested parties.

727—5.16(17A,22) Applicability. This chapter does not:

1. Require the agency to index or retrieve records which contain information about individuals by that person's name or other personal identifier.
2. Make available to the general public records which would otherwise not be available under the public records law, Iowa Code chapter 22.
3. Govern the maintenance or disclosure of, notification of or access to, records in the possession of the agency which are governed by the regulations of another agency.
4. Apply to grantees, including local governments or subdivisions thereof, administering state-funded programs.
5. Make available records compiled by the agency in reasonable anticipation of court litigation or formal administrative proceedings. The availability of such records to the general public or to any subject individual or party to such litigation or proceedings shall be governed by applicable constitutional principles, statutes, rules of discovery, evidentiary privileges, and applicable regulations of the agency.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 22.11.

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